



# Flathead National Forest

Swan Lake Ranger District  
Bigfork, Montana  
406-837-7500



## **Cedar Lake Trail #738 and Piper Creek Trail #119**

**Distance:** From the Cedar TH to Cedar Lake is about 4 miles. From the Piper TH it is about 5 miles to Piper Lake. The full trail from portal to portal is 13 miles long.

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**USGS Quad:** Cedar Lake and Salmon Prairie

**Beginning Elevation:** 5,440 ft Cedar TH  
4,160 ft Piper TH

**Highest Elevation:** 6,880 ft

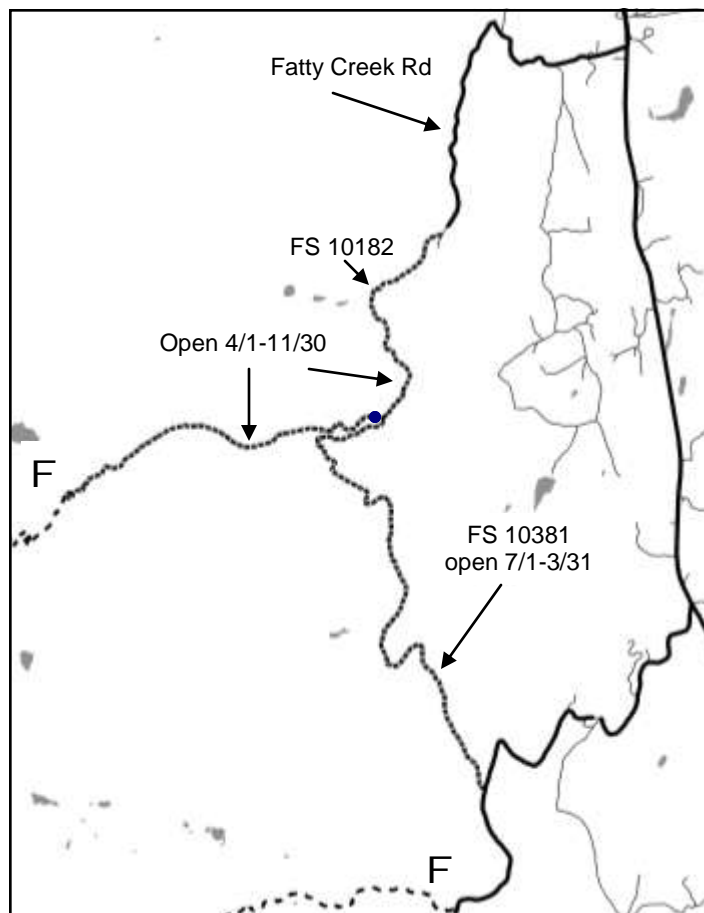
**Directions:** From Bigfork, go south on Highway 35 for 0.7 miles, then turn left onto Highway 209. Stay on 209 for 4.9 miles and turn right onto Highway 83. Follow 83 south and turn right (west) onto Fatty Creek Rd which turns into Forest Service Road #10182. This road is located within the State Forest just past mile marker 59. Drive for 5.7 miles and turn right onto Road #10381. Continue 3.3 miles to the end of the road for the trailhead.

**Season:** This trail is usually cleared of blowdown and snow free by mid-July.

**Regulations:** Most of this trail is in the Mission Mountains Wilderness which allows both hiking and horse riding, but prohibits motorized vehicles and mechanized transport which includes mountain bikes. There is a small portion (the first 1.6 miles) which allows mountain biking, but only to the wilderness boundary.

**Trail Description:** From the Cedar TH: The trail starts out by gaining elevation over 4 long switchbacks through dense spruce forest before breaking out into a more open forest type with good views for much of the remainder of the route. Water is plentiful on this trail with several seasonal and yearround creek crossings. The trail curls around an unnamed lake 2 miles up then zigzags up to a pass before dropping down to Cedar Lake. This pass holds snow late into the summer. Continue on past Cedar Lake for 2 miles through open forests and past lakes to Lower Ducharme and Piper Lakes.

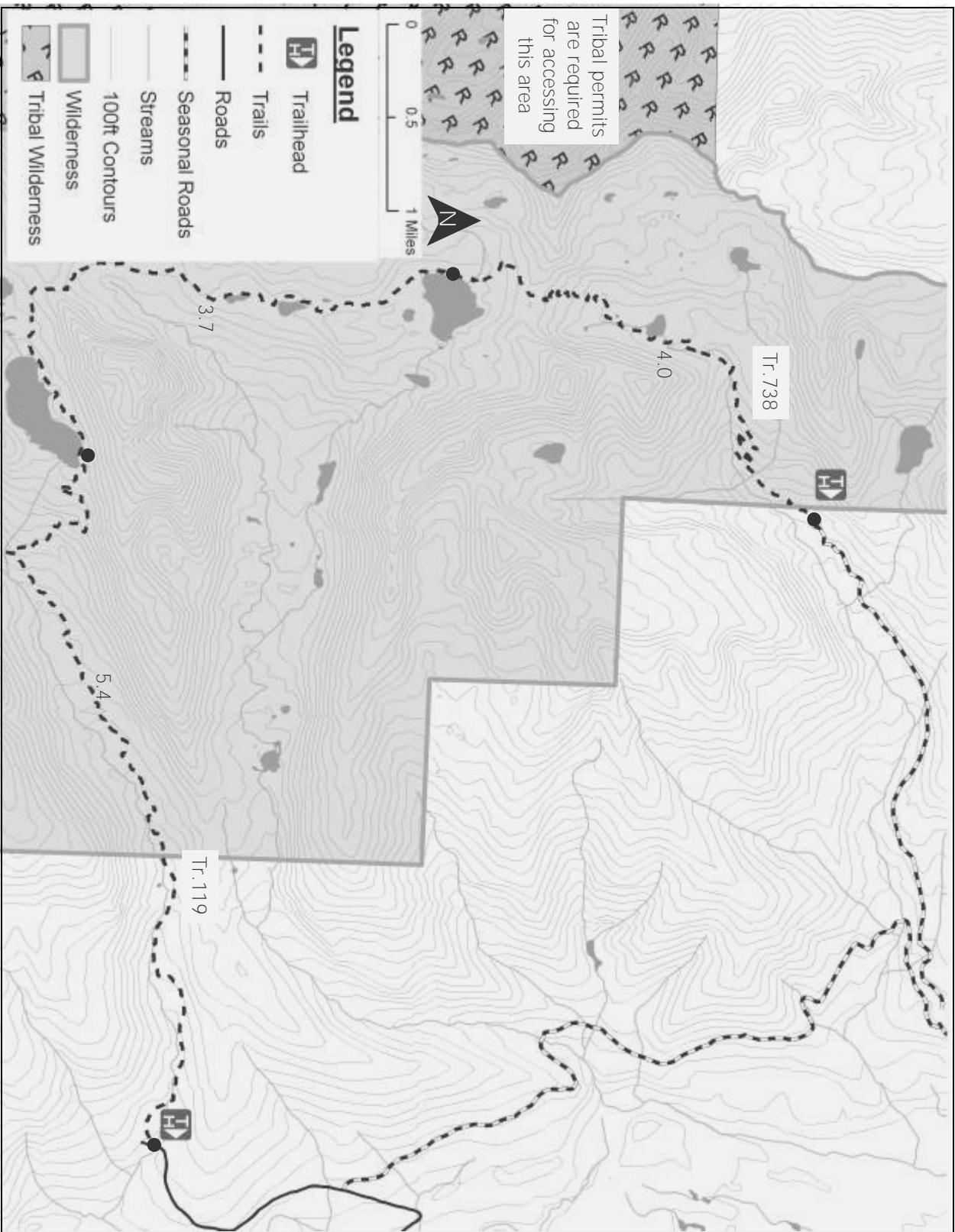
From the Piper TH: The trail winds through multiple dense stands of different tree species over the length of the trail-cedar, spruce/fir, larch, and lodgepole. There is one creek crossing  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile above the trailhead. The trail rolls up and down following the land. There are few views on the trail until Piper Lake, where the user is rewarded with great views. Most of the elevation gained occurs in the last mile before reaching Piper Lake. Continue on for another mile around Piper Lake to a trail junction. Go left to drop a short distance to Lower Ducharme Lake, or right to continue on for 3 miles to Cedar Lake.



Note: Many roads are not displayed.

**PACK IT IN — PACK IT OUT**

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE      TRAVEL & CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES      MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE USE



Disclaimer: The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. This information is not accurate for legal boundaries or for navigation purposes; it may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. The Forest Service assumes no responsibility for the interpretation or application of this data by others.

RESPECT OTHERS      RESPECT WILDLIFE      LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND      DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY